LITERATURE DEPARTMENT
OF THE
Woman's Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church,
No. 156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

Albuquerque School for Mexican Boys.

THE name "Albuquerque School" was long associated in Presbyterian minds with the Training School for Indians in New Mexico, for which Home Missionary Societies erected commodious buildings a little outside of the growing town of Albuquerque. In the gradual evolution of Government provision for the Indians, after the establishment of the large Government school there, the Presbyterian enterprise was abandoned. The buildings stood vacant until leased for private school purposes and so occupied until 18—. Then once more the term "Albuquerque School" began to stand for Presbyterian missionary effort in New Mexico, the home of illiteracy, superstition, and Romanism in its lowest type. The doors were thrown open to Mexican boys, the school was gathered 'round the little family that had been transferred from the insufficient quarters at Las Vegas, and a new era in the special work for these young Spanish Americans was inaugurated. That Las Vegas boarding school was dear to the hearts of Presbyterian women. Its history marked the growth of pure Christianity in the territory and the dawning of better things for the younger generation of

Mexican citizens. As early as 1870 its light was kindled, as a little day school, by Rev. Mr. Annin, who kept it trimmed for eleven years, when other workers took his place. In 1886 it was made a boarding school in order to do the work its situation and surroundings demanded, for it was a school finely located in the center of a large Mexican population. Its value in that benighted, priest-ridden land could hardly be estimated. One of the most enterprising citizens in Las Vegas said when the boarding department was opened: "I am glad to see that good work; it is the hope of our people. I was brought up a Romanist, but I am down on this system of priestcraft that has robbed our children of their birthright in our schools. These priests profess to be the friends of education, but they have had our land for more than three hundred years and what have they done for us?"

The school steadily prospered in spite of opposing forces; the teachers were consecrated and faithful, and the Mexican children overcrowded the building. Wonderful possibilities unfolded before the workers, who knew the environment, who felt the pressure and saw the promising outlook. Because of the poor and inadequate quarters in the old adobe building which had been patched and enlarged until it would answer no longer, an earnest appeal was made for ten thousand dollars for the erection of a new and worthy building in which to prosecute the work. But the appeal was coincident with the paralyzing debt of the Woman's Board and the Las Vegas "special" did not materialize to any great extent. By the advice of the late Rev.

James A. Menaul, the lamented Synodical Missionary in New Mexico, and in spite of anxious protests from the Las Vegas field, the question of a transfer of the boarding department from that point to Albuquerque, one hundred and thirty miles south, was considered, because of the available buildings owned there by the Board. The experiment was made in the interest of economy and expediency, teachers and boys were placed in the refurbished buildings at Albuquerque, while a day school was left at Las Vegas. The predicted check to the training school did not come, the Mexican boys have come in just as they did at Las Vegas and a still wider prospect opens up before the newly located school. The three or four supplementary building are not in the best condition, though the main school building is an excellent structure. Much equipment is needed if the cherished plan of further industrial work is carried out, but even on its present basis it is a noble institution with great possibilities for the Christian training of the black-eyed, Spanish-speaking young Americans who seek its benefits.

Great credit is due the able Superintendent, Miss A. D. McNair, who, with her loyal associates, made the difficult transfer to the new location. The growing needs of such a boys' school demanded a man in the faculty and Mr. J. C. Ross, a tested missionary teacher from the Good Will Mission, South Dakota, was appointed to take general charge of the work as Superintendent, to the relief of the same chosen band of lady missionaries—the "housemothers" and the class-room teachers, Miss McNair being the Principal. Here, then,

will Juan and Manuel, Ignacio and Frederico and all the rest of the poor, schoolless, Christless, Mexican boys, who can be received, find home-care and Christian, practical training that shall make them citizens worthy of such a country as our own. Is there anything more patriotic that Presbyterian women can undertake as a measure for saving their country?

The historical sketch of New Mexico and the Presbyterian Missions there, published by the Woman's Board, will give supplementary information as to the needs of the Spanish-speaking people of our land, and the fostering care of such schools as this Albuquerque School for boys. Scholarship shares in the support of the school are earnestly solicited, for which letters from the field will be regularly supplied. Seventy-five dollars will thus provide for a Mexican boy a wholesome Christian training in a Presbyterian home. If you could see a dirty, procrastinating, untrained Mexican boy transformed by this life into the tidy, dishwashing, bed-making, care-taking, studious, Bible-loving, hymn-singing, wide-awake, school-boy, you would know what it is that justifies this string of adjectives, and the money spent by Presbyterian women on their Albuquerque School. And you would want to help.

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